

REMARKS

Claims 2, 6, 7, 12, 14 and 21 were allowed.

Claim 5 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 5 has been so rewritten.

Claim 10, 11, 13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brotz, U.S. Patent No. 5,684,616. Claim 1, 3-4, and 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brotz in view of Muller et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,583,914.

Claims 1, 3-4, 8-11, 13, and 15 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, in order to place this application in condition for allowance, but applicant reserves the right to file a continuing application including claims 1, 3-4, 8-11, 13, and 15.

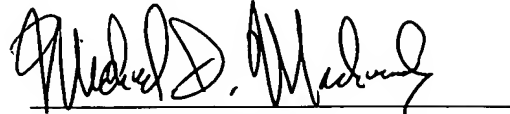
CLOSING

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that independent claims 2, 5-7, 12, 14, and 21 are in condition for allowance, as well as those claims dependent therefrom. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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